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Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

~ John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avebury
English banker, philanthropist, scientist
1834-1913

PEOPLE & PLACES

Shaw Photography Series: Finding Your Focus

For many MoNEP members, **Shaw Nature Reserve** (SNR) is a favorite spot for nature photography in the St. Louis area. Located 40 miles west of downtown St. Louis, the Nature Reserve is part of the Missouri Botanical Garden and has an interesting history all its own. Over the past 35 years, the Reserve has hosted a number of photography workshops conducted by regionally and nationally recognized photographers, including MoNEP President, Scott Avetta. In 1980 and again in 1982, Ernst Haas led photo workshops at the Nature Reserve, as did Jay Maisel in 2003.

This fall and during the winter and spring of 2014, SNR will be offering a series of presentations and workshops as part of the ***Shaw Photography Series: Finding Your Focus***. The series kicks-off on **September 20th** with **An Evening with Jim Brandenburg at the Missouri Botanical Garden**. Tickets for the two-hour presentation **go on sale on August 1st** and cost **$20 for Garden members, $24 for non-members**. To register and for information on the Brandenburg presentation or any of the other programs, visit **shawnature.org**.

Other events planned for the photography series thus far are:

*** September 28: Todd Weinstein**
The Essence of Street Photography

*** September 28: Stewart Halperin**
How to Make Better Images As You Travel Around the Globe

*** October 5: Jeff Hirsch**
Shooting & Processing High Dynamic Range (HDR) Images

*** October 5: Mark Katzman**
The Art of Environmental Portraits

*** October 12: John Nagel**
Publishing a Book of Your Photographs for $100 or Less

*** October 12–13: Scott Avetta**
Observations & Conversations with Nature

*** November 9: David Hanlon**
Historic Photographic Process

*** December 14: Greg Basco**
Creating Your Own Light: Flash and Flashlights for Nature Photography

*** January 11: Danny Brown**
Techniques & Equipment for Photographing Missouri Wildlife

*** February 8: Jeff Hirsch**
Shooting & Sharing: Photography in the Age of Social Media

Registration for all of the events opens on August 1st.

Membership Renewals

Last call for membership renewals! If you haven't renewed, this will be your last newsletter! If you want to continue your membership, you can download a membership form from our website, **www.monep.org**. You may turn the form and your dues in to **Michelle Jones** or **Shawn Northrop** at the July meeting or mail it to Michelle at: **45 Bellerive Acres, St. Louis, Missouri, 63121**. If you are not sure whether you have renewed or not, you can check on your membership status by contacting Michelle at **michelle@mmjones.us**.

New Members

A warm welcome to new members: **Pam Caraffa**, **Harold Clifton**, **Mike Davidson**, **James Hawk**, **Jennifer Perkins** and **Rheba Symeonglou**. We're happy to have you join us!

Member News

On June 28th, **Jim Campbell** was among 33 artists exhibiting their work at the **Old Orchard Gallery** in Webster Groves. Jim had three pieces on display.

Original MoNEP Members

Scott Avetta was wondering how many of the original MoNEP members are still members. If you were one of the originals, please let Scott know at **scottavetta@hotmail.com**.

MoNEP Exhibit

Lori Purk and **Christy Lonero** traveled to the **Runge Nature Center** in Jefferson City on June 28th to hang the MoNEP photo exhibit. Thanks to both of them for their time and significant effort to hang our images. For a sneak peek, Christy sent the following image.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The MoNEP exhibit is on display in their main lobby. Many visitors and conservation partners will be able to view the work while attending the various celebratory events they have planned throughout the month of July. The photographs will be on display **through August 30th**. The building is open **8-5** on **Tuesdays - Saturdays with extended hours to 8 p.m. on Thursdays**. The center is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Ken Biddle

June Meeting/Field Trip Recap

We were entertained and educated at the June meeting by the very enthusiastic **Tom Terrific**. Tom is an avid butterfly gardener who shared ways to attract butterflies to your yard. He walked us through his ***Ten Commandments of Butterfly Gardening***. These include growing host plants on which adult butterflies can lay their eggs, and young caterpillars can feed. The host plants are species specific, with certain butterflies laying eggs on only one or two kinds of plants. For instance, the monarch only lays eggs on species of milkweed plants.

Tom also grows nectar plants as food for the adult butterflies. He has planted over 200 species to provide a smorgasbord on which many different butterflies and caterpillars can feed.

Butterflies are cold-blooded, and the warmth of the sun keeps them active. Tom has planted many of his beds in full or partial sun. He also advises designing the garden so it's in a place where you can see it and enjoy it.

Tom doesn't use any pesticides, even the "safe" ones, because they will kill both good and bad insects. Nor does he use predatory animals to control unwanted insects, because they will also affect the kinds of insects the butterfly gardener is trying to attract.

While many gardeners are inclined to tidy up their gardens for the winter by cutting back dead stalks, Tom emphasized that most of our local butterflies overwinter as chrysalises on these dormant or dead plants. If you cut back all your plants you will be sending all of next year's adult butterflies to the landfill!

He provides wet spots in the yard so the butterflies can land and sip water. When the ground is dry, he uses a sprinkler to maintain moist areas. This also helps them get salts from the soil.

Finally, he shared an easy way to prepare your soil. Once he identifies a spot for a new bed he lays newspaper over the area, two layers thick. He places nine inches of really good soil, such as the Garden Mix from St. Louis Compost on top of the newspaper and he is ready to plant.

Our thanks to Tom for his talk, and also for allowing us to visit his garden later that week for the June field trip. About 20 MoNEP members attended the field trip during which Tom so graciously answered questions and allowed us to set up tripods and photograph throughout his yard.

Tom maintains two websites where you can find much more information and can download his free book. They are **www.butterflygardening.org and tomterrific.com**.

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, July 16: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Powder Valley
Tuesday, August 20: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Powder Valley

NOTE: For July we will have Share and Show from 6-6:30. The formal presentation will begin at 6:30.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 7/13

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for July is **Geometry in Nature**. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, July 13**.

Share and Show Themes

July 16th Share & Show Theme: Geometry in Nature
August 20th Share & Show Theme: Road Trip

July Speaker – Scott Avetta

MoNEP President and photography workshop leader, **Scott Avetta** will be the presenter at the July meeting. Scott will focus on ***Creating Strong Compositions***, which are critical to keeping the viewers' interest. Scott will talk about some of the essentials, starting with subject and lens selection. He will emphasize the critical time that is spent in the field behind the viewfinder and will talk about how to pay closer attention to not only the subject but also to the entire scene. How you arrange the visual elements in the entire scene is crucial to the success of an image. He will also cover additional adjustments that can be made after the image is recorded, using unedited and edited images for comparison.

August Speaker – Stacey Morse

Stacey Morse, **Director of Chesterfield Arts,** will be presenting ***Developing Your Creative Vision*** at the August meeting. She will discuss her technique of "the art of seeing" to explore and discover unique characteristics in urban and natural environments. She will focus primarily on a grouping of images captured over the years from travels out West.

Stacey has a BFA in photography from Maryville University and has been a fine art photographer since 1987, specializing in black and white and color compositions. At the start of her career (pre-digital), Stacey worked with a variety of photographic equipment including 35mm, 4x5, 5x7 and 8x10 view cameras.

July Field Trips – 7/18 & 7/20

The July field trip will be held on both **Thursday, July 18th** and **Saturday, July 20th** at the **Saint Louis Zoo**. Members should meet at the **Zoo's North Entrance** (The Living World) at **7:45 a.m. Bill Lubben** will lead the Thursday field trip and **Randy Hunter** will lead the Saturday visit. In addition to your camera gear, you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack. Please contact Randy at **314-845-3914** or Bill at **314-965-2639** for details.

Holiday Show Submissions

The 2013 MoNEP Holiday Show and party will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. One of the highlights of the evening is a digital presentation of members' photographs. **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess** create the show, but we need member's images!

Submission Guidelines:
Each current MoNEP member may submit up to 20 nature images for the show. In addition to your 20 nature shots, we would like to include images of other members in action. Submissions can be turned in to **Shawn Northrop or Michelle Jones** at the **August 20th** or **September 17th** meetings. You may also submit your images via the MoNEP website by sending them to **share@monep.org** by **September 30th**. Instructions on resizing and submitting your images can be found in the Tips section of the MoNEP website at **www.monep.org**.

Format:
Digital submissions are required. Any slides need to be scanned. Place up to 20 images **on a CD-ROM in a folder with your name as part of the folder's title. Each individual photo file should also have your name included as part of its title.** However, no text should appear on any of the images.

Image size:
Images should be resized to **768 pixels on the longest side**. Vertical images must be sized with a height of 768 pixels and horizontal images with a width of 768 pixels. The resolution can be between 96 and 300 dpi (dots per inch). The size of each image should be less than 2.5 MB. For further information about resizing your image, please see the instructions at **www.monep.org**.

Image Release
When you submit your photographs, you are providing MoNEP with permission to use your images in the Holiday Show, in the MoNEP newsletter, on the website and in promotional materials for the club. However, you will retain all rights to your images and will be given credit for each use. Your images will only be used to promote MoNEP and the mission of the organization. They will not be sold or used in any other ways than those stated above.

Tips for submissions
Please include a variety of your strongest nature photos that have not been submitted in previous years. Bear in mind that we need images from all four seasons and that we must have them by the **September 30th** deadline.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.monep.org